

Mike's labour back at city's

ANNA SAVVA

Reporter
anna.savva
@cambridge-news.co.uk

AN archive project has highlighted the important contribution the *Cambridge News* has made to the social history of Cambridge.

Mike Petty MBE was the librarian of the county archive, the Cambridgeshire Collection, for 30 years, where he worked tirelessly to make it accessible to all.

Since retiring from that role 20 years ago Mike, 73, from Stretham, continued his studies and at the end of June produced his latest work: *Cambridge 1888-1988: a Chronicle of an English University City*.

The historical tome, over 4,000 pages long, is an attempt to record a century of development in Cambridge, as reported in Cambridge newspapers – the majority of which has come from the *News*.

The work is formed of a series of scrapbooks – compilations of newspaper cut-

download it to their computer and just search it for anything they want – or to settle squabbles in the pub about 'when the first traffic lights were installed' or 'when the Dorothy Cafe Ballroom closed'. To find when things opened and closed and about the city's geography – anything that makes Cambridge what it is: a wonderful place."

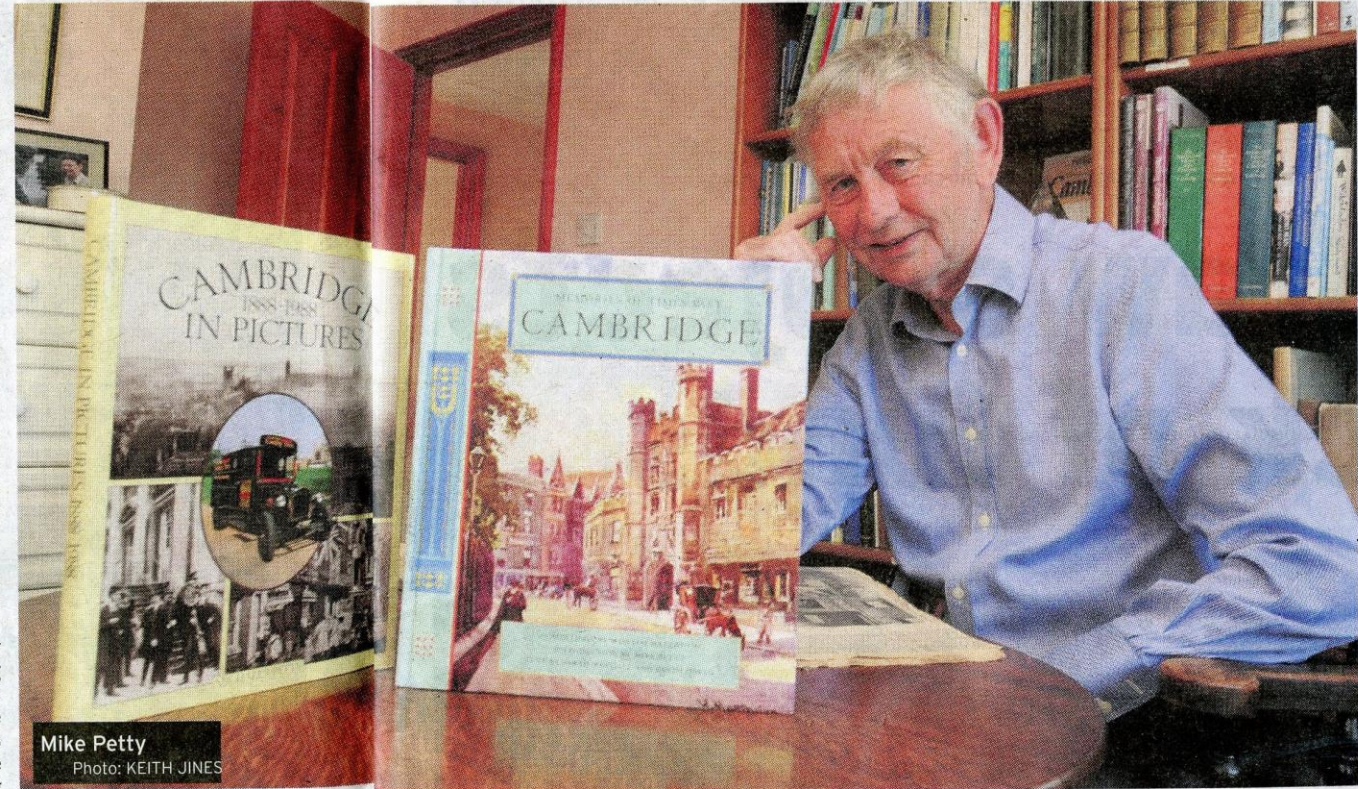
The archive will also offer a helpful indexing system to enable researchers to find what they need without trawling through screeds of text.

Using the chapters they can hone in extracts of texts on specific subject matter, which then correlates to a carbon copy scan of the original article, archived on Flickr.

It will also allow people to draw historical parallels through the ages.

Mike said: "Like the Busway today [which is undergoing repair work] there were similar articles about the tramway which ran from 1888 to 1911 – it collapsed because of the expense of maintaining the track.

of love looks recent past

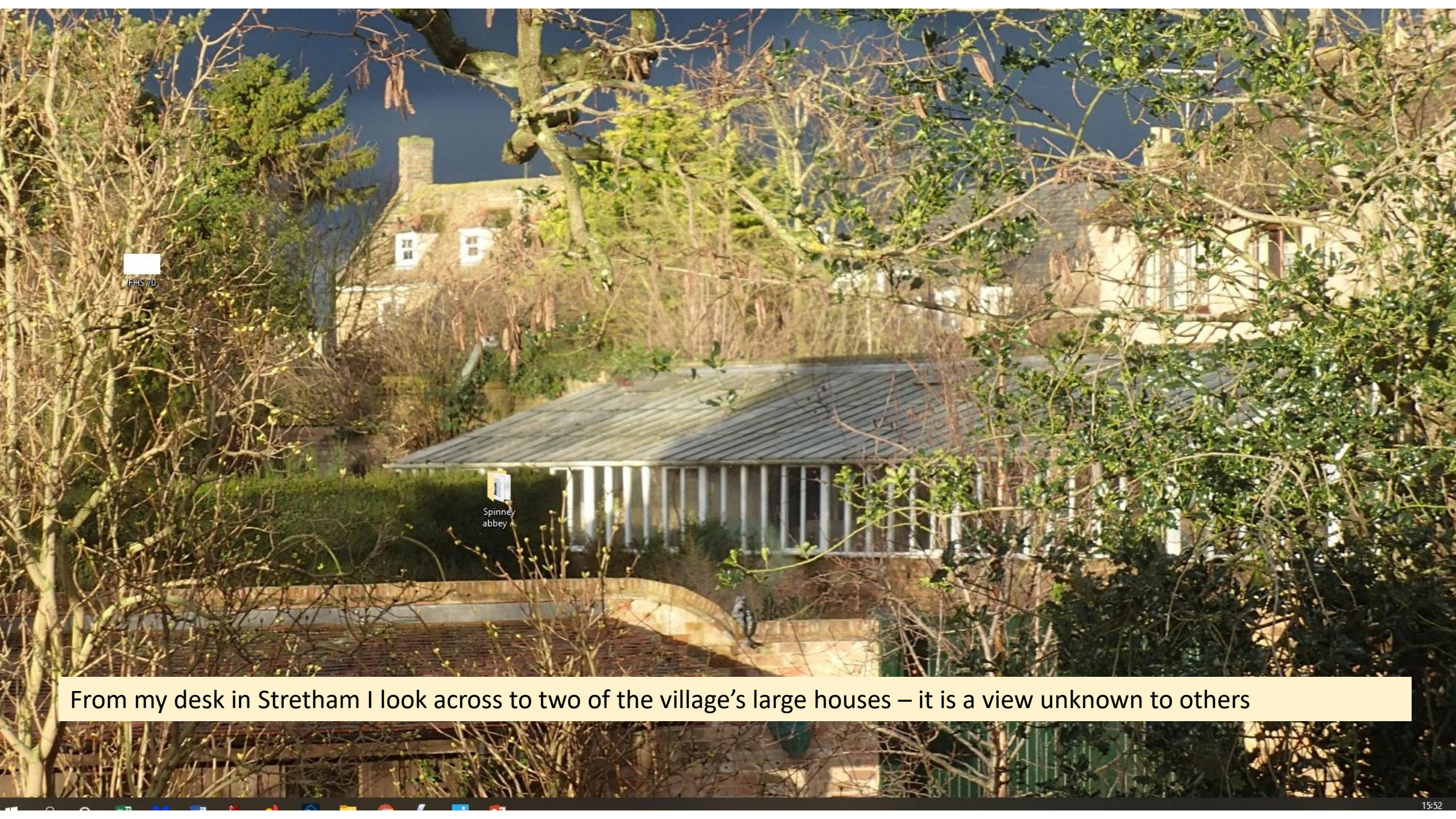


Mike Petty
Photo: KEITH JINES

A Fenland History Saver Shares All at the Museum of Cambridge –
Mike Petty, November 2022



Stretham is a village on the former Island of Ely, twelve miles north of Cambridge



IFHS 70

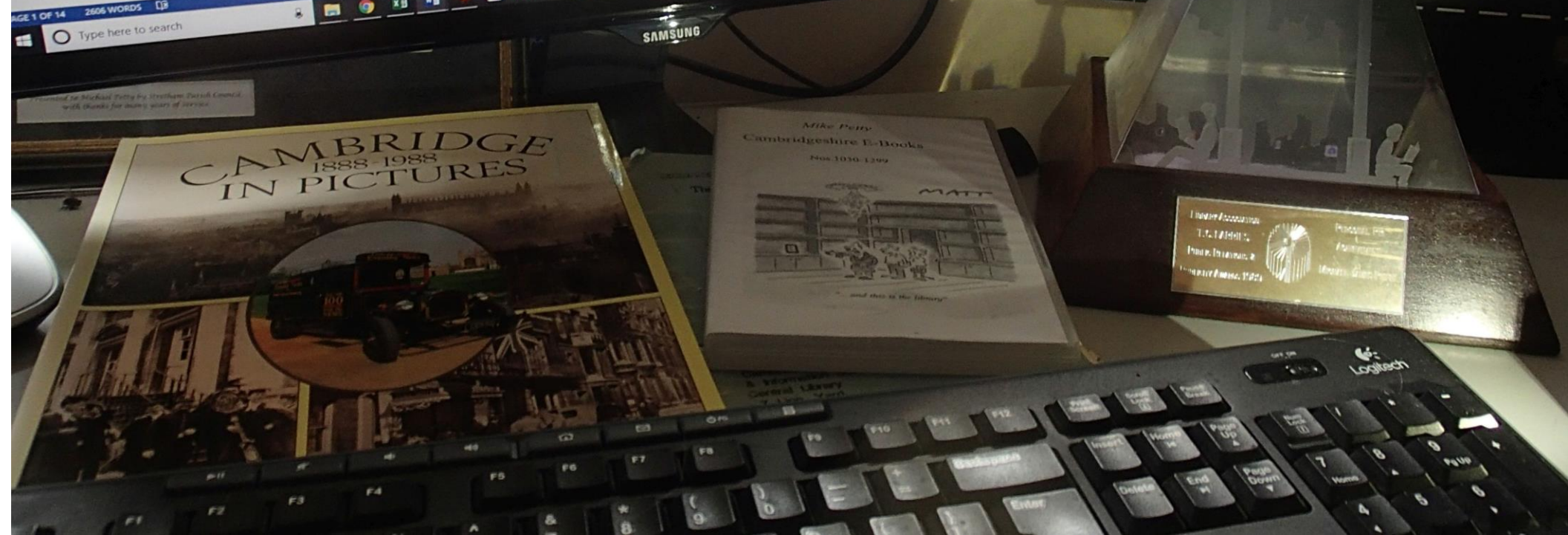
Spinney
abbey m

From my desk in Stretham I look across to two of the village's large houses – it is a view unknown to others



4018	F.DT.L02	72.37	71.64		Cambridgeshire Collection
4019	F.DT.L04	218.52			Cambridgeshire Collection
	F.DT.L04	200.81			Cambridgeshire Collection W
4020					2004 - CEN
4021	F.DT.L06	124.66			Cambs Collection area - comp
4022	F.DT.L07	167.38			Cambridgeshire Collection des
	F.DT.L07	135.56			Biography index - Mike Petty e
4023					
4024	F.DT.L07	135.57			Open shelf stock, Milton Road,
4025	F.DT.L07	135.51-52	F.H.L07		Cambridgeshire Collection base i
4026	F.DT.L07	135.53			Illustrations catalogue entry, Ely &
4027	F.DT.L07	135.54			News index entry, Ely
4028	F.DT.L09	148.84			Cambridgeshire Collection in Centr
	F.DT.L1	225.10	T.G.K4		Cambridgeshire Collection America
4029					collection (do not work 2016)
4030	F.DT.L10	154.32			Cambridgeshire Collection microfilm
4031	F.DT.L11	154.20			Cambridgeshire Collection showing u
4032	F.DT.L12	174.47			Cambridgeshire Collection microfilm r
4033	F.DT.L12	174.48			Cambridgeshire Collection 'Reserved f
	F.DT.L12	175.90			Cambridgeshire Collection open shelves
4034					
4035	F.DT.L12	175.90			Cambridgeshire Collection only comput
4036	F.DT.L12	175.90			Cambridgeshire Collection microfilm read
	F.DT.L12				Mike Petty indexing volume of newspapers
4037					

Between me and that view is a computer screen. On that computer I can view hundreds of books, 100 years of newspapers, thousands of pictures and much more relating to Cambridgeshire.



Virtually everything on my screen can also be found on whatever device you are viewing. It is my library on your laptop.



In 1949 I was sent a postcard of my village; it was 'old' when sent. I have been collecting Cambridgeshire material ever since.



MP0055a



mp0055b



mp0056 126.51



MP0056



mp0056a

Today that postcard can be viewed and downloaded by every child in the village, together with over 4,000 other images <https://photos.app.goo.gl/FLZcw9CLY2pXcjt5>



mp0056b



MP0057



mp0165 SN02.21 mp165



mp0165a SN02.20



MP0166



MP0167



MP0168



MP0169



MP0171



MP0174



THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF STRETHAM,

In the County of Cambridgeshire.

A LECTURE

GIVEN TO THE

Stretham Branch of the Women's
Institute, on October 3rd, 1922.

BY

Rev. S. Stewart Stitt, M.A.

Formerly Scholar of Pembroke College,
— Cambridge, Rector of Stretham. —

PRICE 4D.

The Proceeds of the Sale will be given to the
Organ Fund.

FRIDAY, The Cambridgeshire Times OCTOBER 2

RAL HISTORY OF STRETHAM.

Interesting Account by the Rev.
S. S. Stitt.

ANCIENT RECORD.

An extremely interesting account of the history of Stretham was given recently by the Rector of the Parish (the Rev. S. Stewart Stitt) in a lecture to the local branch of the Women's Institute, and is now published as a booklet at the price of 4d. in aid of the Church organ fund.

The writer begins by explaining the meaning of the name Stretham—"Street Hame," or "Home at the Street." He carries his readers back in imagination to the time when huge Mammoth elephants tramped over the Fens and enormous winged lizards terrified the ancient dwellers, and draws a mental picture of Stretham in the days when the Roman legions controlled our land. Proceeding, he says:—

The Akeman Street was a Roman Road leading out from Cambridge.

While I was at School the Headmaster arranged for a lecture by a previous vicar to be retyped by the County Librarian's Secretary. Today the original is online

This brass, stripped of the brass canopies, has now been placed in the South Chapel of the present Church. It has a peculiar interest, as we are told the head dress or wimple is the earliest representation of a square one, (probably they had just begun to have a knowledge of starch) and the wedding ring is on the right hand, which we are told was in accordance with the usage of the Sarum Rite.

Dame Joan Swan was the mother of John and Richard Ryplingham, who were Rectors of Stretham in 1438. John held the benefice for only a few months, apparently having received other preferment, as we read of one John Ryplingham, D.D., Rector of St. Martin's, Vintry, who died about 1519. He was succeeded in the said Church of St. Martin in 1508 by one Ralph Ryplingham, who had for his predecessor;—two others intervening, one William Swan, who died about 1456, and who probably was the husband of Dame Joan.

At the foot of the Altar steps in the north wall is a raised tomb under an arch with a Lombardic inscription: "Nichol de Kynbstone: gyst icci, Dieux de Salme: eit: merci: Amen."

Nicholas de Kingston was probably Rector in the time of Edward I, and Founder of the Chancel.

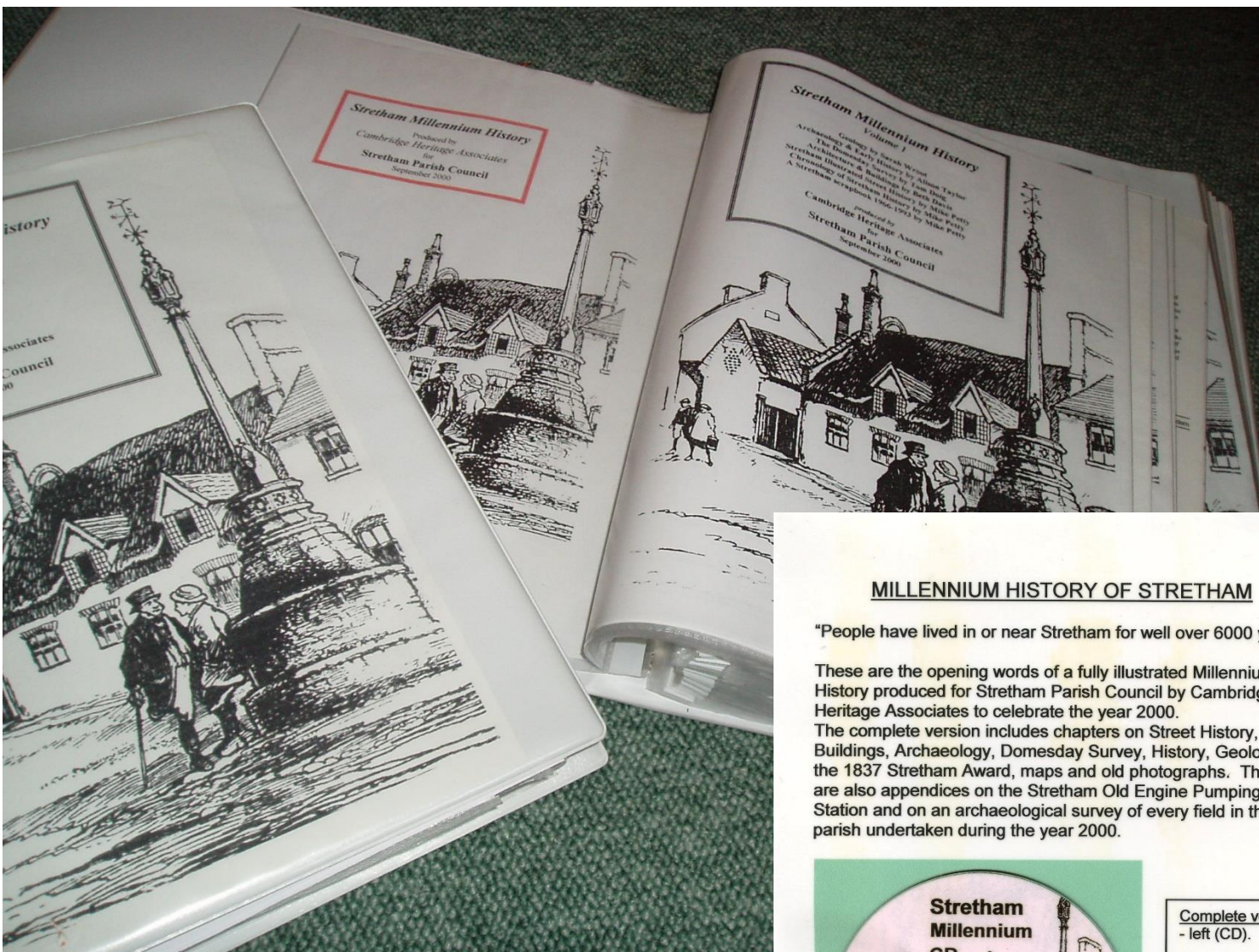
There was another coat of Arms, or probably a hatchment in this part of the Church, the

Armorial Bearings which formerly decorated it, were even then lost.

There was a table of Benefactors over that Altar, which was put up by Mr. Thomas, who was Rector in 1727, and whose tombstone is down on the South Side of the Altar.

Up to the Restoration of the Church in 1876 there was a double piscina of rich carving; but it, too, had gone, and the record of its being there is fast becoming an ancient memory.

In 1866 the steeple was repaired, and a new weather cock put up. On November 28th, 1910, a steeplejack went up to the top of the steeple and brought the weather cock down. After it had been repaired




There are now also other histories on every computer, tablet, laptop or mobile phone

MILLENNIUM HISTORY OF STRETHAM

"People have lived in or near Stretham for well over 6000 years"

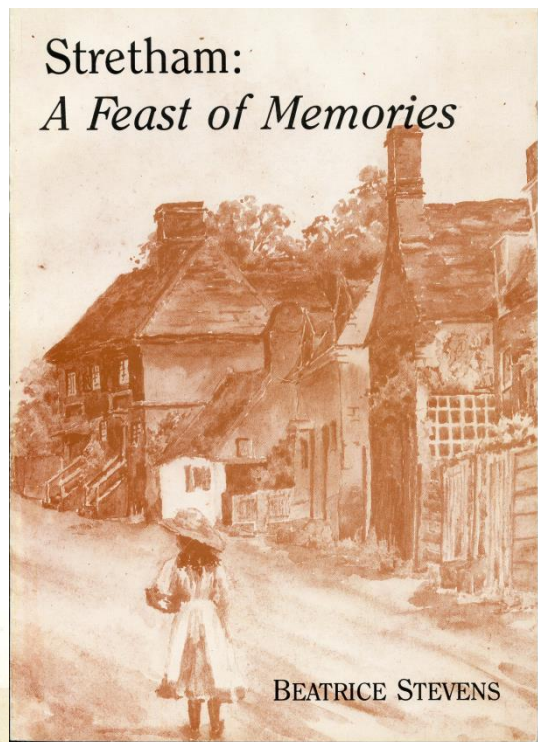
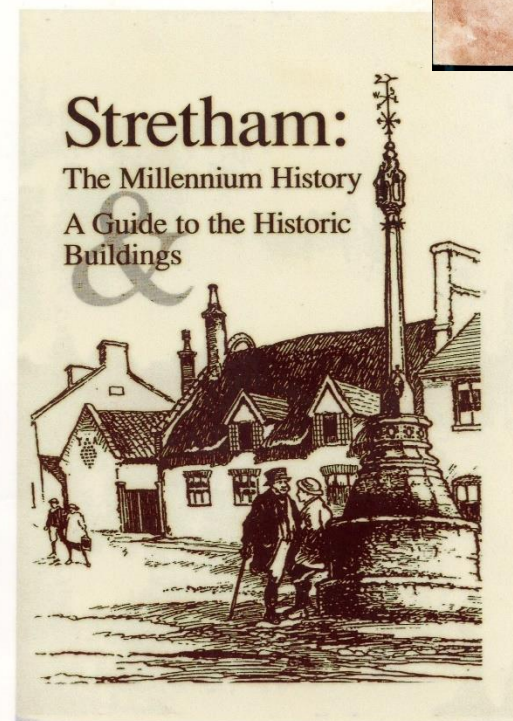
These are the opening words of a fully illustrated Millennium History produced for Stretham Parish Council by Cambridge Heritage Associates to celebrate the year 2000. The complete version includes chapters on Street History, Buildings, Archaeology, Domesday Survey, History, Geology, the 1837 Stretham Award, maps and old photographs. There are also appendices on the Stretham Old Engine Pumping Station and on an archaeological survey of every field in the parish undertaken during the year 2000.



Complete version
- left (CD).
Price: £10-00

Abridged version
- right. 36 pages
A5 booklet
Price: £2-50

Obtainable here



<https://archive.org/details/StrethamMillenniumHistoryMikePettty2015>

<https://flic.kr/s/aHskRK2dgU>



At Soham Grammar School Library I found other books I could read. I got a job at Cambridge City Library where there were many more – books that could be taken home

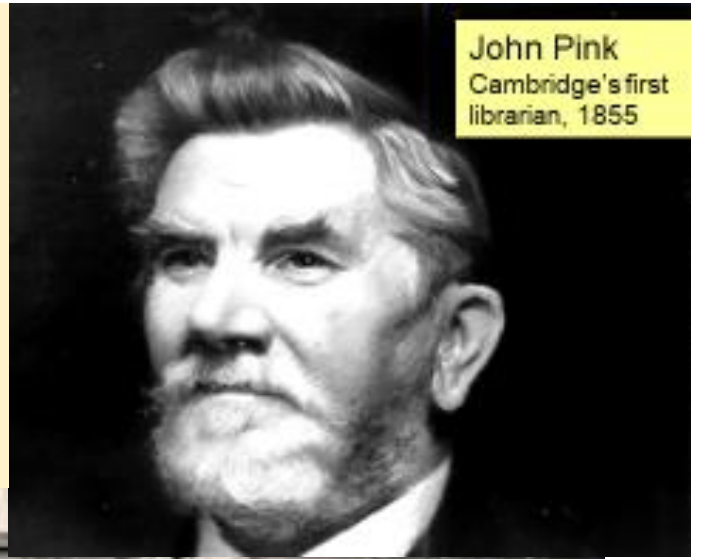


Charles Henry Cooper
compiler of *Annals of
Cambridge*



That library had been started in 1855 by Cambridge's first Librarian, John Pink. The first book was 'Annals of Cambridge' by Charles Henry Cooper, the Town Clerk. From the first the library strove to collect everything published about Cambridge and Cambridgeshire and its efforts were recognised at the Library Association Conference in 1901: 'So much care has been taken that the historian of the future will find here everything he will need'

John Pink
Cambridge's first
librarian, 1855

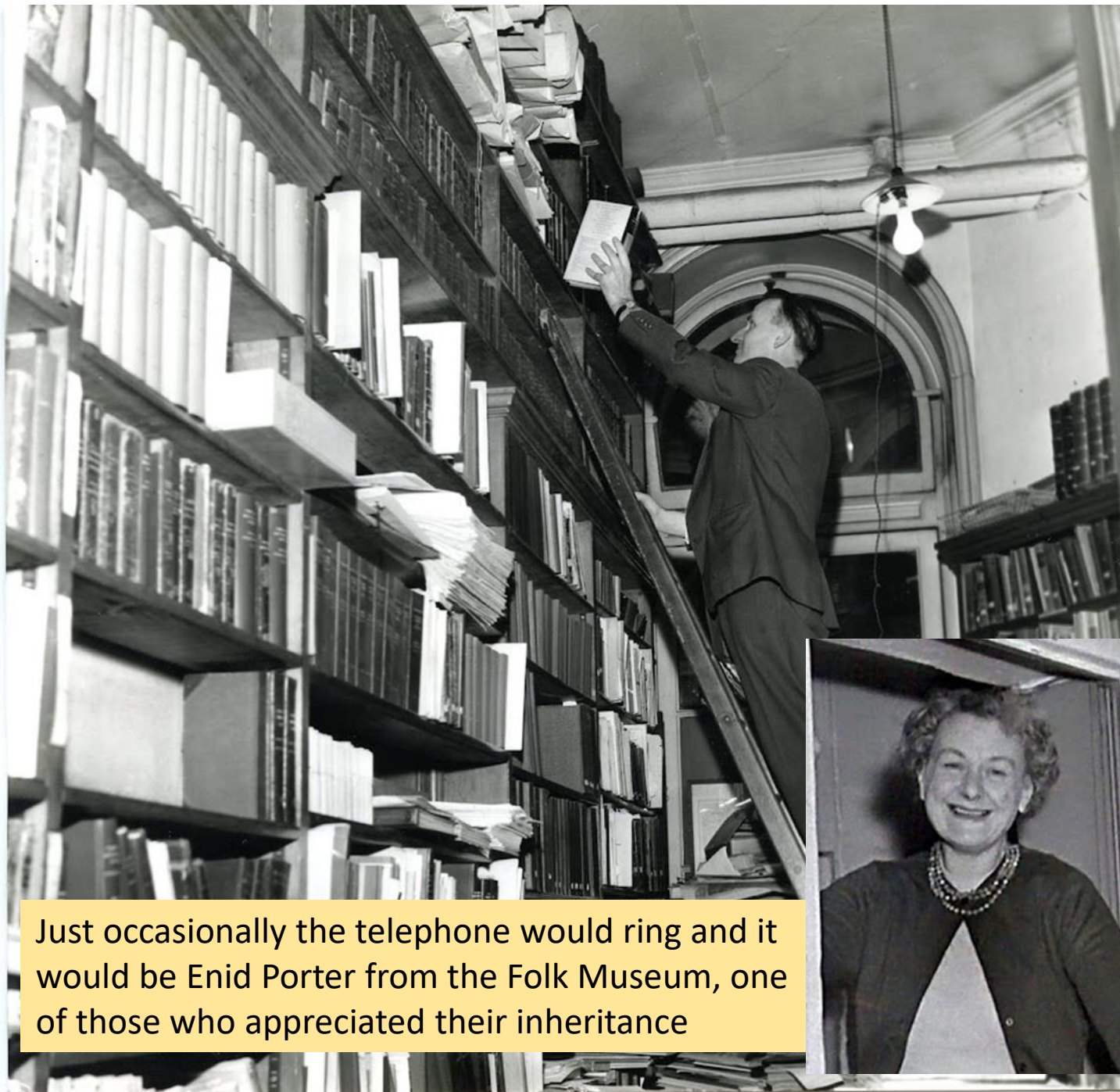


By 1930 the books and illustrations were freely available in the main Reading Room together with contemporary newspapers – which are still there to this day.

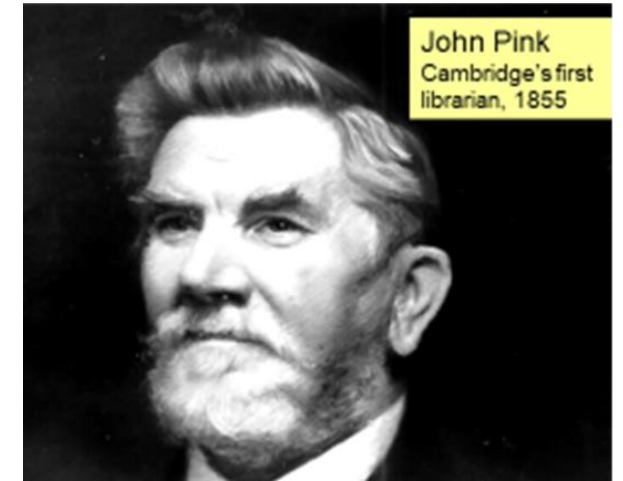


In the 1950s, to make way for the expansion of the Reference Library, many of the books and pamphlets relating to the University and its administration were dispersed (only to be quietly bought back when they appeared in Cambridge bookshops)

By 1964 the accumulated material was hidden away in a small airless room, uncatalogued and largely forgotten



The room had
formerly been
the office of
John Pink



I spent a decade working in there with
Cooper for company

Just occasionally the telephone would ring and it
would be Enid Porter from the Folk Museum, one
of those who appreciated their inheritance





The Collection included Newspapers dating back to 1770.

It worked with the Newsplan Project to ensure Cambridgeshire papers were microfilmed.

This has been superseded by the British Newspaper Archive but it will be years before full digitisation is complete and the stories can be discovered online.

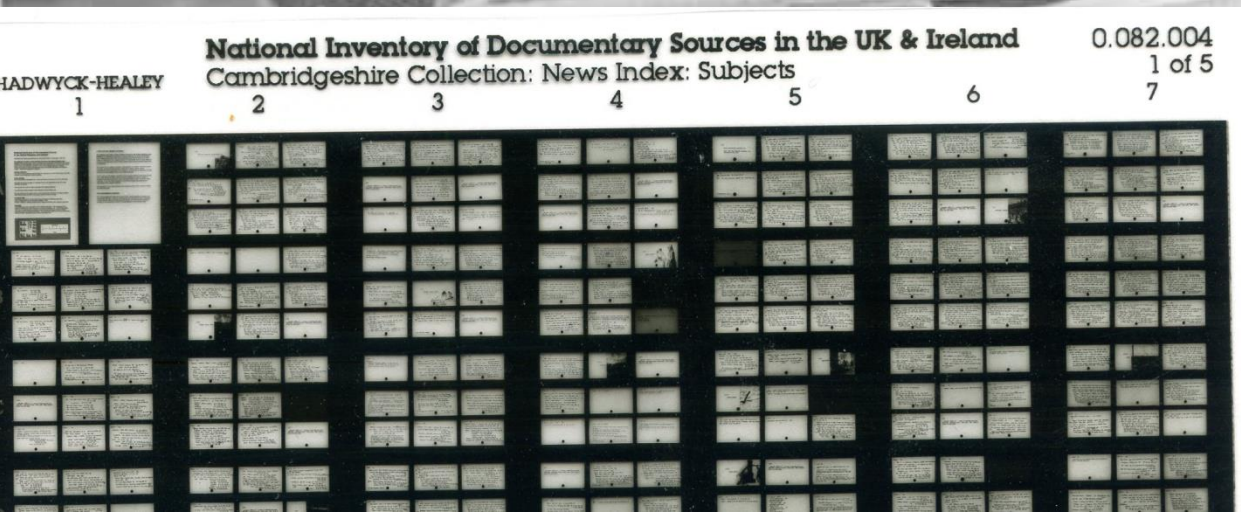
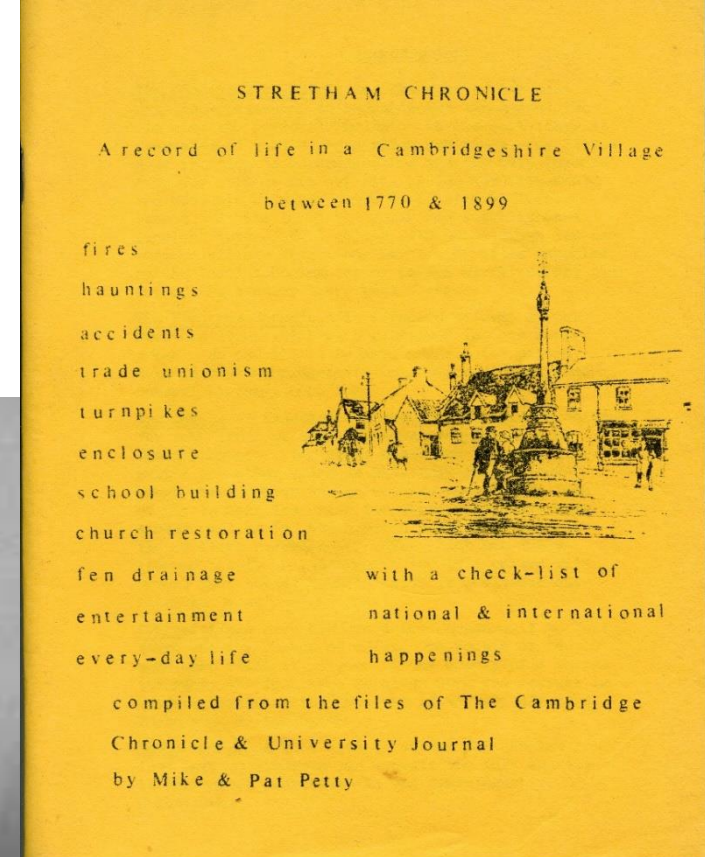
<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the British Newspaper Archive. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for HOME, SAVED, BLOG, HELP, and ABOUT. Below this is a 'Find my past' advertisement for a one-month subscription from £9.99. The main heading reads 'Discover History As It Happened' with the subtext 'Access hundreds of historic newspapers from all over Britain and Ireland'. A search bar contains the text 'cambridge', and there's a link to 'Advanced Search'. At the bottom, there's a 'Browse by' section with links for Date, Country, Region, County, Place, and Recently Added titles.

A class from Haddenham WEA prompted an idea to index the Stretham news reported in the Cambridge Chronicle.

<https://archive.org/details/StrethamChronicleAndScrapbook17702018>

Other volunteers enabled the news for every Cambridgeshire village in the Cambridge Chronicle from 1770 to 1899 to be indexed. The index was included in the *National Inventory of Documentary Sources*. Many stories were transcribed and published in 'Village Chronicles'

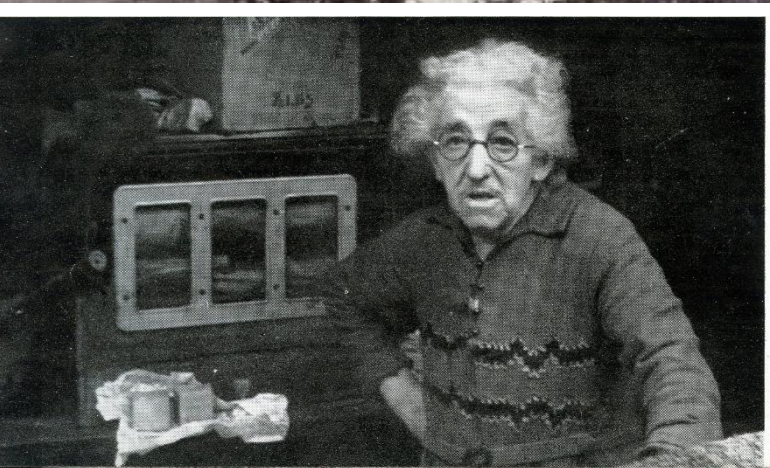




Walter Martin Lane deposited his remarkable photos of the fen floods of 1947. They were presented to the Mayor at the first of three displays in Cambridge Guildhall.

The story was featured in the Cambridge News and on regional television awakening an awareness of the Collection .

<https://archive.org/details/mpc-32a-soundings-1947-flood.-1995> <https://archive.org/details/great-flood-of-1947-lester-milbank-1997>





The Albatross Inheritance: Local Studies Libraries

Mike Petty
Library Management
Volume 6 Number 1 1985

In 1975 new Central Library in Lion Yard included a Cambridgeshire Collection suite on the third floor. It appeared that the 'Albatross Heritage' could finally be appreciated.

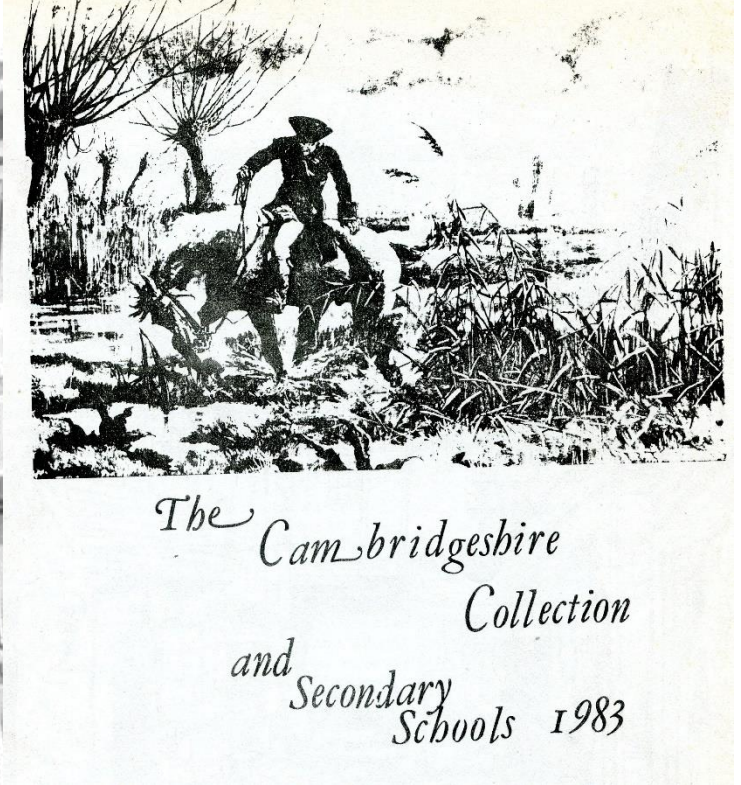
But Local Government Reorganisation of 1974 had transferred library powers from Cambridge City to a new enlarged County administration and the opportunities for co-ordination with the County Archives and local collections at March, Huntingdon and Peterborough Libraries were not realised

<https://archive.org/details/PettyM.J.TheAlbatrossInheritance.1985>



By the mid 1990s the Collection was being used by some 1,000 researchers each month. They used various detailed catalogues and indexes, of which the most important related to information appearing in books





The Collection established a Teaching Area for classes and a History Teacher was seconded to evaluate its resources for secondary schools. The Open University pioneered digital learning





Dennis leads the way

THE launch of a display of Cambridgeshire's rich heritage struck the right note, thanks to Dennis of Grunty Fen.

The Cambridgeshire Heritage Showcase at the Central Library in Cambridge's Lion Yard was being opened by county councillor Wendy Silby when Dennis crashed in looking for his rusty bicycle, which featured among the exhibits.

And the formal opening became an impromptu singalong, with Dennis leading guests on his banjo.

The showcase celebrates Cambridgeshire's heritage and history and reflects the work of various county council departments and invited organisations.

It will be open daily until March.



Toasting their heritage ... from left, Dennis of Grunty Fen, librarian of the Cambridge Collection Mike Petty, Wendy Silby and library manager Chris Heaton.

Picture: Dave Parfitt 4359315

A Cambridgeshire Heritage Showcase saw joint exhibitions from Libraries, Archives and Museums

The official opening was interrupted by 'Dennis of Grunty Fen' from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire

BBC Local Radio

Radio Cambridgeshire

medium 1026kHz/292m, 1449kHz/207m

VHF 96MHz Stereo

BROADCASTING HOUSE, HILLS ROAD,

CAMBRIDGE CB2 1LD

PHONE CAMBRIDGE 315970, PHONE-INS 315444

PETERBOROUGH 312832



Don Smith

Librarian Mike Petty reminisces on the growth of photography in Cambridgeshire: Mon 12 noon

SATURDAY

LEEDS UNITED and BRISTOL CITY v PETERBOROUGH UNITED.
Live Round up of local

12.3 pm Soundings
A Way of Living
PAUL COBLEY visits the Papworth Village Settlement, founded in 1916 for the rehabilitation of 78 patients, and now catering for people with a full range of physical disabilities.

12.25 Programme news

12.30
Westminster at Work

1.0 pm-5.0 am
as Radio 2 (page 34)

WEEKDAYS

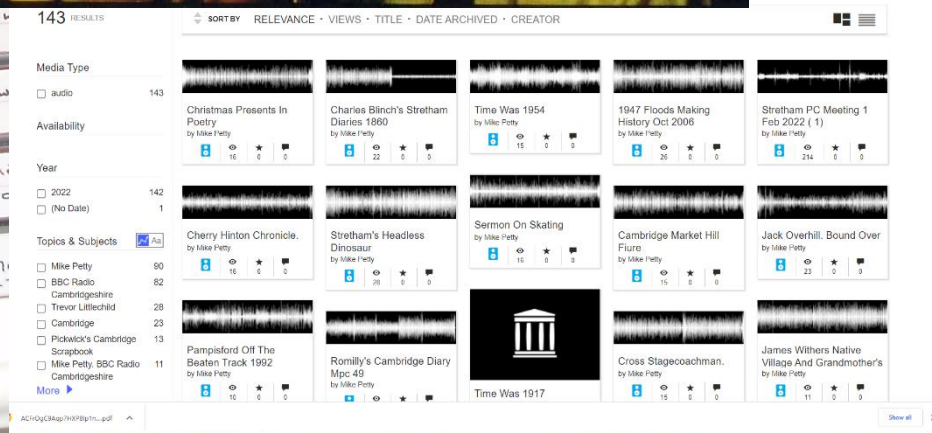
News at 7.0 am, 7.30, 8.0, 8.30, 9.0, 12.0, 1.0 pm, 4.0, 4.30, 5.0, 5.30 and 5.58
Presented by FRANCES ALLAN, IAN CAMERON, LES WOODLAND, DAVID CAMPBELL, RITA JOHNSON, EVE TURNER, EVA SIMMONS, PENNY HATCHICK, HELEN FITZWILLIAM, VIRGINIA CROCKER, ANNE BRISTOW and JANE SOLOMONS

5.0 am
as Radio 2

6.45 New Day
with JULIA BOOTH
Local news, travel, weather and sport; what's on television and in the papers; interviews and music.
Behind the news: a topical discussion, a county visit or a special guest.
Monday and Friday
At 9.15 Arts Round-up

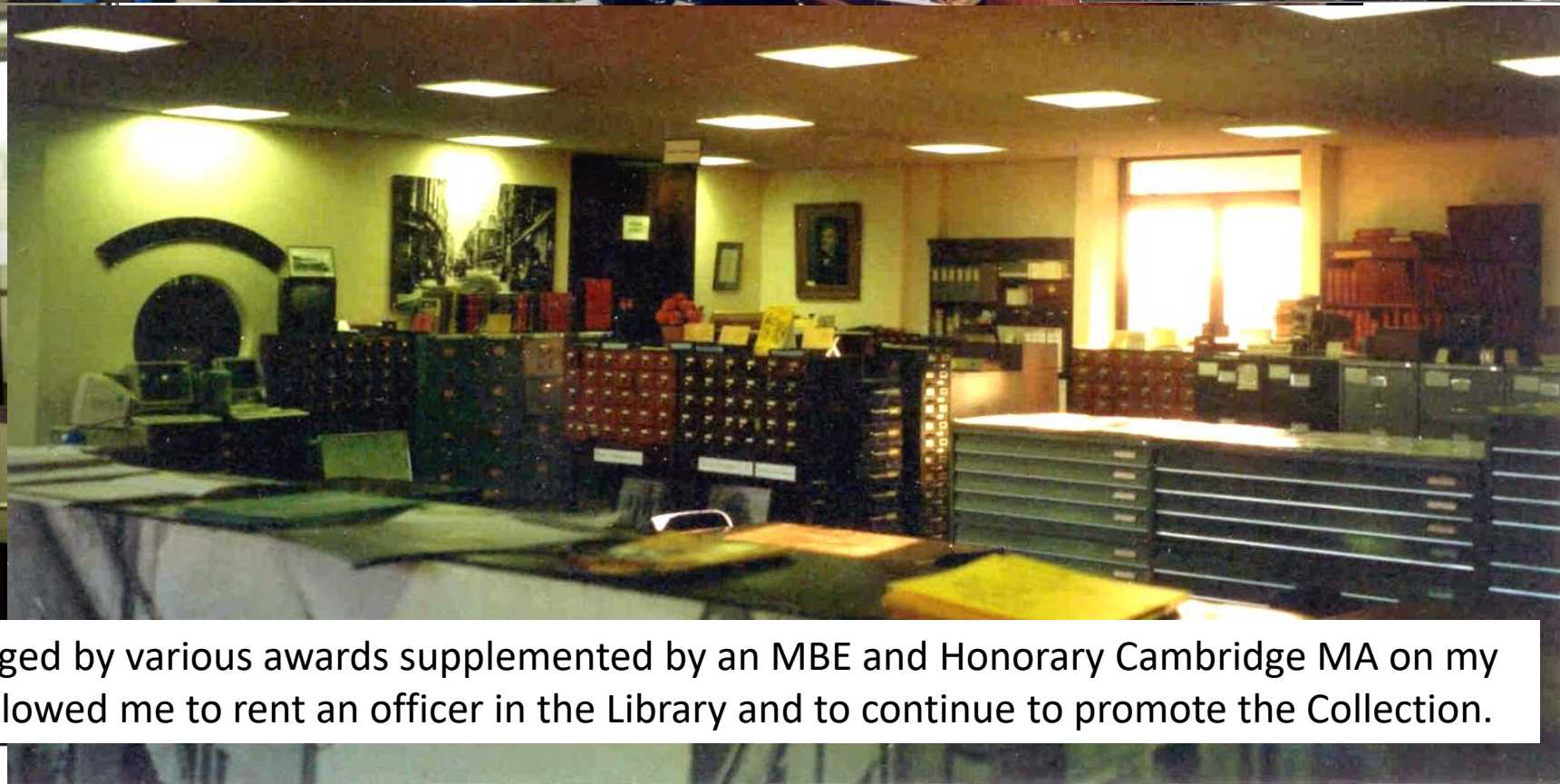
10.0
as Radio 2

12.0 Midday
Call GINA MADGETT on Cambridge 315444 or Peterborough 312832 for the countywide Dial-a-Dedication service, The Careline, Swap Shop or just to have a chat.
Local guests, visiting celebrities, competitions, some midday memories



I made regular broadcasts on Radio Cambridgeshire including a series of ***Time Was*** documentaries and ***'Off The Beaten Track'*** visits to villages. They included a trip to Horningsey School with Tom Doig and Becky Proctor. of the Folk Museum I also tape recorded a number of people, including Enid Porter. These can now be heard online

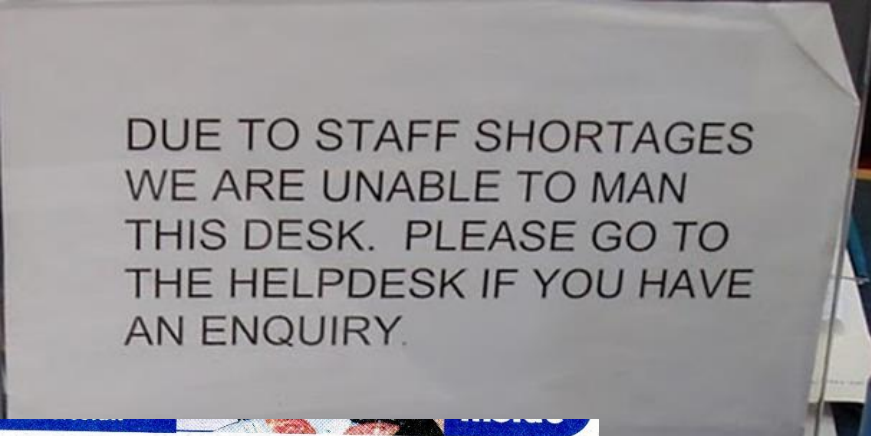
<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22%20AND%20audio>



The Collection's work was acknowledged by various awards supplemented by an MBE and Honorary Cambridge MA on my 'retirement' in 1997. The 'package' allowed me to rent an officer in the Library and to continue to promote the Collection.



But by the turn of the century the Collection's staff and facilities were drastically cut during a period of mismanagement that saw the entire Central Library closed for many months. However protests have ensured that it remains a part of the Cambridge Central Library



Central library protest forces council rethink

JON VALE

A DECISION to replace part of Cambridge Central Library's third floor with an enterprise centre has been put on hold. Protesters were successful in getting the decision reviewed after an appeal to Cambridgeshire County Council on Tuesday. The proposals would have leased some 60 per cent of the third floor to Kora – part of the Regus group – for an enterprise centre to help the out-



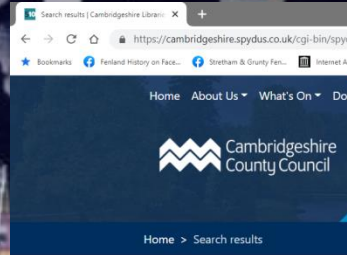
However, a motion from committee chairman Cllr Roger Hickford means that the decision was delayed until the same committee's meeting in June. A consultation over the future of the library service is likely to be extended past its current end of April closing date. A petition signed by almost 3,500 people was presented to the general purposes committee on Tuesday opposing the plans, although the wording of the petition was criticised as it included words such



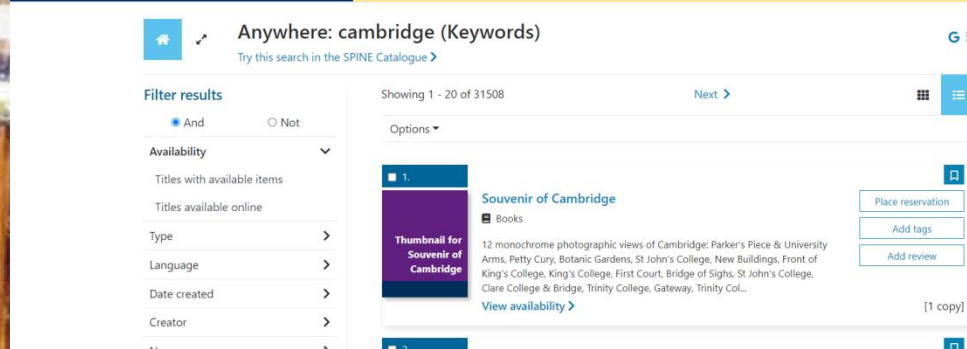


The Cambridgeshire Collection

*An annotated catalogue
of the books and articles,
pamphlets and periodicals
acquired 1855 - 1983*



The card catalogue of books has been discarded to be replaced with an online version which is incomplete and difficult to use. I have reformatted this into a text that can be downloaded
<https://archive.org/details/ACambridgeshireBibliographyVol.1BooksAndPamphlets>

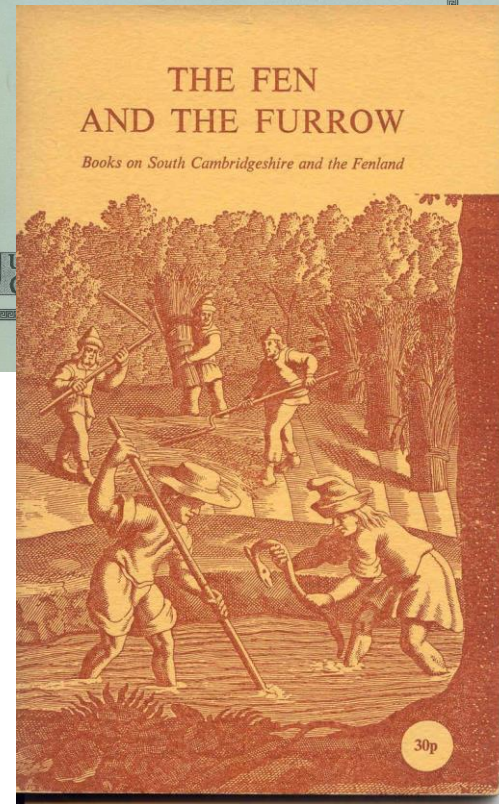
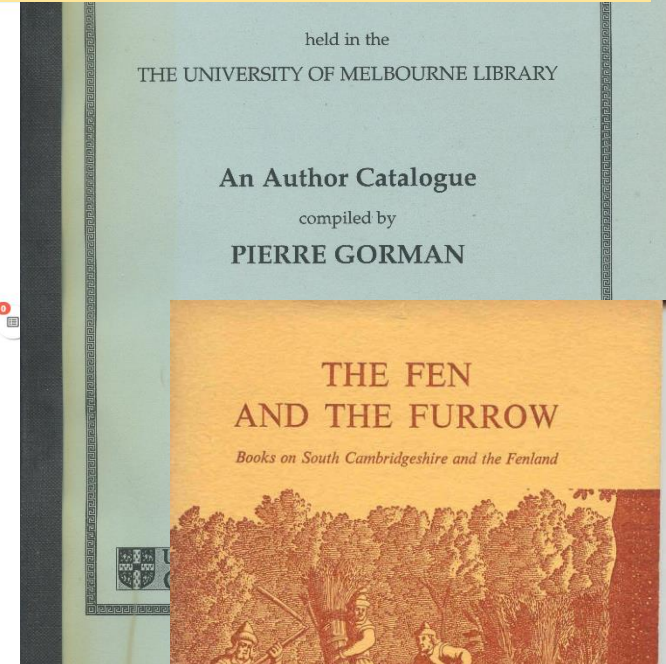


A Cambridgeshire Bibliography

Volume 1

An annotated catalogue of the books and articles, pamphlets and periodicals about Cambridge, Cambridgeshire and the Fens accessioned by the Cambridgeshire Collection 1855-2016.

Mike Petty



Early English Books Online

English Parliamentary Papers

Eighteen-century Books Online etc etc

Cambridge University Library has been pioneering projects to digitise books, journal articles and reports



With a 'Raven'
password I was able to
discover hundreds of
items not held in the
Collection



11606
Gt. Brit. Poor law commissioners.
REPORTS
OF
SPECIAL ASSISTANT
POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS
ON THE EMPLOYMENT
OF
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
IN AGRICULTURE.

ACTS of PARLIAMENT,
FOR
DRAINING and PRESERVING

OF SEVERAL
Fen Lands and Low Grounds,
IN THE PARISH OF

WHITTLESEY,



Which I have downloaded to my library together with material from other sites such as *Google Books* and *Internet Archive*. These can be shared via *Memory Sticks* – you can carry hundreds of books in your pocket

- 1809 Frost From rioting
- 1810 Jones Guided bus
- 1811 Whitely Pepys
- 1812 O'Connor Stretham coprolites
- 1813 Guillebaud From bats
- 1813 Newspplan titles
- 1815 Impington Hall sale
- 1816 Terence Gray
- 1817 Woolf A room
- 1818 Keynes Women's part
- 1819 Clark Route
- 1837 Holywell Parish registers
- 1838 Swavesey born & bred
- 1839 Frere Cot
- 1840 03 28 Ro
- 1840 Swavesey
- 1841 Swavesey
- 1842 Thomas C
- 1843 Six move
- 1844 Over Chronicle
- 1845 Benwick Mill
- 1846 Swavesey old & new
- 1867 Delanoy Spooky stories
- 1868 Madingley
- 1875 Bennett Invasion
- 1876 Freeman album
- 1877 Kelly Norfolk 1922



AT A SESSION OF SEWARS HOLDEN AT THE CITTIE OF ELY,
the xxij. and xxiiij. dayes of September, Ann. Dom. 1619. before the Reverend Father in God NICHOLAS, Lord Bishop
of Ely, Sr. MILES SANDYS, Knight and Barroner, Sr. EDWARD RADCLIFFE, Sr. JOHN CVTS, Sr. SYMEON
STEWART, Sr. RICHARD COXE, Sr. WILLIAM WENDIE, Knights: JOHN GOSTLIN Doctor
of Physicke, Vicechancellor of the Vniuersitie of Cambridge, JOHN CROPLEY, and HENRIE SMITH, Doctors of
Diuinitie, JOHN POPE Doctor of Lawe, Henrie Bing Elquier, Mr. Ierome Beale, Batchelor in Diuinitie, Daniel Wigmore
Archdeacon of Ely, Robert Steward, Isaac Barrowe, Daniell Goodricke, Peter Franckland, Elquiers; Robert Clench, Iohn Pepie,
Iohn Orwell, Simon Wasfou, and Henry Upcher, Gentlemen, Commissioners of Sewars amongst others assigned: It is ordered
as followeth: viz.

WHEREAS The Kings most excellent Maieftie, by his gracious Letters, dated at Windsor the iij. day of this instant moneth of September,
directed vnto the Commissioners of Sewars in the Countie of Cambridge, Isle of Ely, Suffolke, Norfolk, Lincoln, Northampton, Huntingdon, &c.
therein signifying, that Sr. WILLIAM AYLOFFE, Knight and Barroner, Sr. ANTHONIE THOMAS Knight, with other their
friends, at their owne charge haue vndertaken the great and worthy worke, to draine the grounds surrounded with fiesh or salt waters, in the
seuerall Counties of Cambridge, the Isle of Ely, Norfolk, Suffolke, Lincoln, Northampton, Huntingdon, &c. whereby his Maiefties conceiuenth, that a great and in-
estimable profit will arise to the Kingdome, and that the said worke will disburthen the said Counties, and the Inhabitantes thereof, from the taxes and charges
now continually imposed vpon them, and will reconcile, and vterly take away all differences, and discontents heretofore arising about the leuying of
such taxes: Also signifying, that the said Vandertakers haue already concluded in point with his Maieftie, concerning the recompence for the draining his
Maiefties lands, and the lands of the Prince his Highnes; And hath by his Maiefties said Letters, recommended the said Vandertakers, and their designes to the
especiall care of all the Lords, and other Commissioners of Sewars, for aid and euery the said Counties, requiring them to be aiding and assisting to them in the
Contracts to be made with the Subiects according to Lawe; And that all persons should be respected, and conformable to that his Maiefties Royall pleasure.

AND therewithall, the right Honourable Lords, and others of his Maiefties most Honourable Pruiue Counsell, for further direction and instruction,
haue also directed their Honourable Letters, bearing date at Windsor aforesaid, the v. day of the said moneth of September, Wherein their Lordships for the
better clearing of the said businesse, haue mentioned one cheife purpose of the said Vandertakers, That they intend to beginne their workes at the Sea, and
to open the out-falls of Neane and Welland, and make them nauigable to the Townes of Spalding and Wisbech, which (their Lordships conceiued) will take away
all feare of turning the waters vpon any the neighbour-Countries, and drawe the same into their true and naturall channells, without any further trouble
or inconuenience.

For the readier, and more speedie execution whereof, their Lordships by their said Letters did likewise require the said Commissioners of Sewars, to ob-
serue well his Maiefties said gracious, and Princely direction.

OBSERVATIONS

ON
AN ADDRESS

TO THE
PUBLIC,
DATED APRIL, 20, 1775,

SUPERSCRIBED

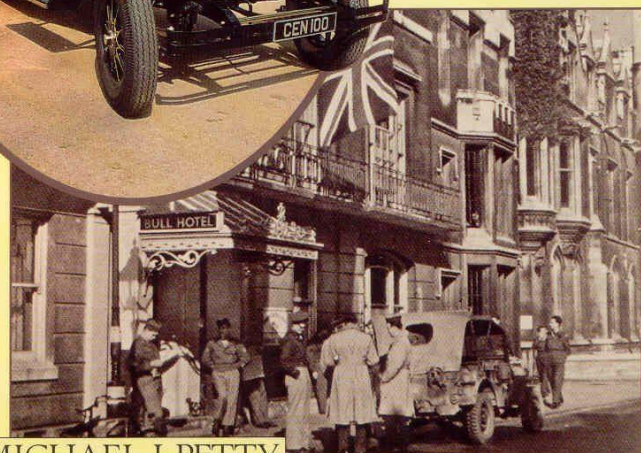
BEDFORD LEVEL,

AND SIGN'D

CHARLES NALSON COLE, Register;

Repeatedly inserted in the Cambridge Paper;

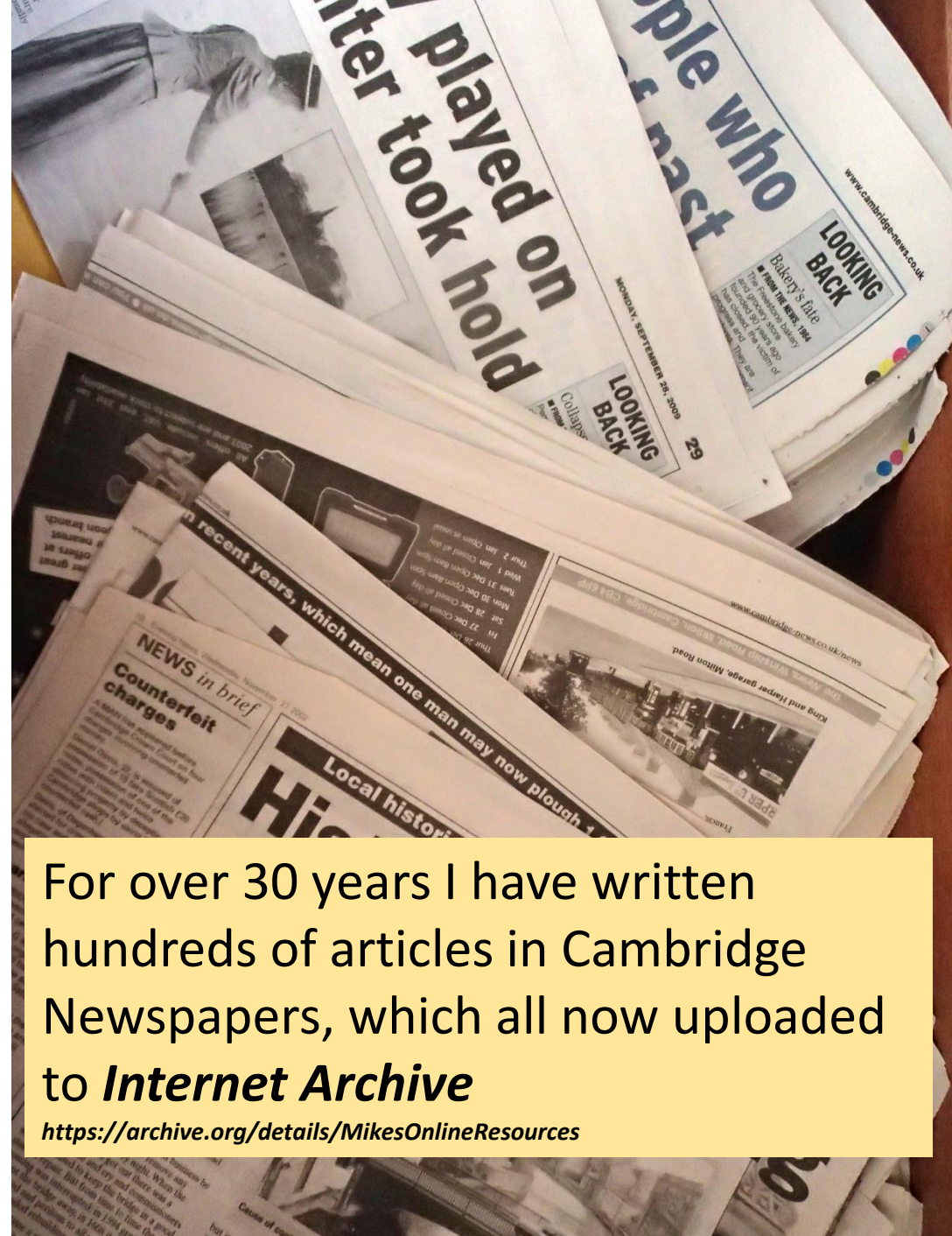
CAMBRIDGE 1888-1988 IN PICTURES



MICHAEL J PETTY



I compiled a number of books, several in conjunction with the Cambridge Evening News, drawing upon their library



For over 30 years I have written
hundreds of articles in Cambridge
Newspapers, which all now uploaded
to ***Internet Archive***

<https://archive.org/details/MikesOnlineResources>



Pickwick's Cambridge Scrapbook 1838

Public group · 8 members

 Joined ▾

+ Invite



From the mid 1960's the Cambridge News had maintained their own library to record every story that had been published in their newspaper

That library was closed down. But I had permission to use its resources



There were hundreds of folders of photographs covering all aspects of Cambridgeshire from the 1960s





... together with thousands of negatives.
I took digital copies of many of these then used an
image processing program to convert them to
positives which I added to my files.





259.59



259.60



259.61



259.62



259.63



259.65



259.66 (2)



259.66



259.67

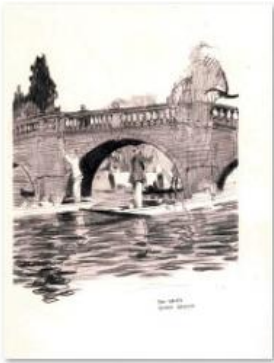


259.68



I identified and catalogued thousands of Cambridge News photographs





129.60



129.61



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129.64



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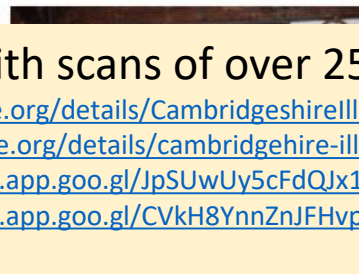
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129.73a

Which with scans of over 25,000 images have been shared to *Google Photos*

<https://archive.org/details/CambridgeshireIllustrationsPart1Index>

<https://archive.org/details/cambridgehire-illustrations-1574-to-2000-in-mike-pettys-collection-nov-2020>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/JpSUwUy5cFdQJx1q9>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CVkJH8YnnZnJFHvpJ6>



Search for:

Search mode

Advanced Phrase Search

From:

To:

Search by series

Category

☐ Accidents / Disasters

☐ Award Ceremonies and Red Carpet Events

☐ Animals

☐ Art and Literature

☐ Business and Commerce

☐ Celebrities and Famous People

Settings

Relevance

Date

Date

Page:

1 2 3 4 5

 Go to page:

1

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Select all results

Unselect all results

Select page


Unselect page

Results for: CAMBRIDGESHIRE (167)


Active filters: All

By Decade:


Date: 01.01.1960 - 31.12.1970




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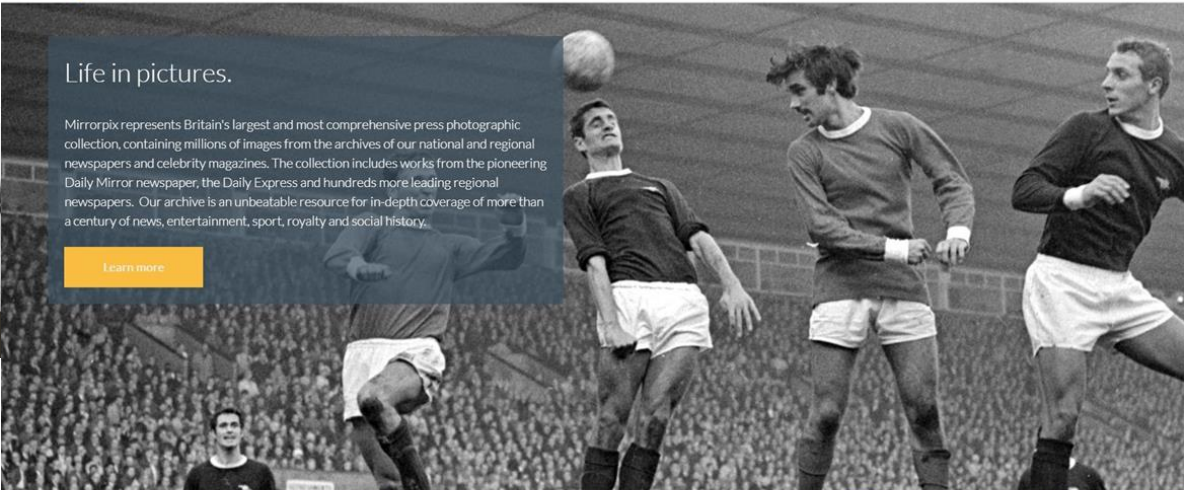


01503748

Life in pictures.

Mirrorpix represents Britain's largest and most comprehensive press photographic collection, containing millions of images from the archives of our national and regional newspapers and celebrity magazines. The collection includes works from the pioneering Daily Mirror newspaper, the Daily Express and hundreds more leading regional newspapers. Our archive is an unbeatable resource for in-depth coverage of more than a century of news, entertainment, sport, royalty and social history.

Learn more



Cambridgeshire

The Cambridge News negatives now form part of the Mirrorpix archive. They have plans to properly scan and share them and can supply quality prints.

1
FOOTWEAR
FLAGS
Huntingdon Town Hall - Union Jack to be removed as tatty 15.5.75
1bX Pic
" " " " " put up on Prince Philip's birthday.
11-6-75 15FX
" " " " " Union Jack stolen. 14-2-76 1F LOC
SMITH CAMPS DC

FIRES - GRASS.

39

Stubble burning: Cdge area campaign growing - Mayor urges letters to MP
26-8-83. 11a.
2 " health experts want ban. 26-8-83. 11a.
" " C Wrighton, NFU, says no alternative. 26-8-83. 11a.
" " RV Harrowell letter. 26-8-83. 11d.
" " Cambs fires costing ratepayers thousands: farmers face
prosecution. 26-8-83. 1a.
" " Gawain Hammond of Harlton saves home after hedge fire
from field. 26-8-83. 10. pic
" " causes power cuts 27-8-83. 6.c. & 30-8-83. 9.a.

FIRES - CAMBRIDGE

40

STROODS HALL.

Hall and gardens open to the public on Sunday 1-10-83. 11a.
Open to the public on Sunday 1-7-83. 11a.

The Cambridge News Librarians also built-up detailed card indexes recording everything published in their paper. These were housed in filing cabinets

1
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FIRES - GRASS. 39

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" " Gawain Hammond of Harlton saves home after hedge fire
from field. 26-8-83. 1c. pic
" " causes power cuts 27-8-83. 6.c. & 30-8-83. 9.a.

FIRES - CAMBRIDGE 40

FIRES - GENERAL



One morning I opened the cabinets to find that all the cards had disappeared

FLAGS

Huntingdon Town Hall - Union Jack to be removed as tatty 15.5.75
1bX Pic
" " " " " put up on Prince Philips birthday.
11-6-75 15fX
" " " " " Union Jack stolen. 14-2-76 1f LOC
" " " " " CAMBS DC

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" " causes power cuts 27-8-83. 6.c. & 30-8-83. 9.a.

FIRES - CAMBRIDGE

40

FIRES - GENERAL



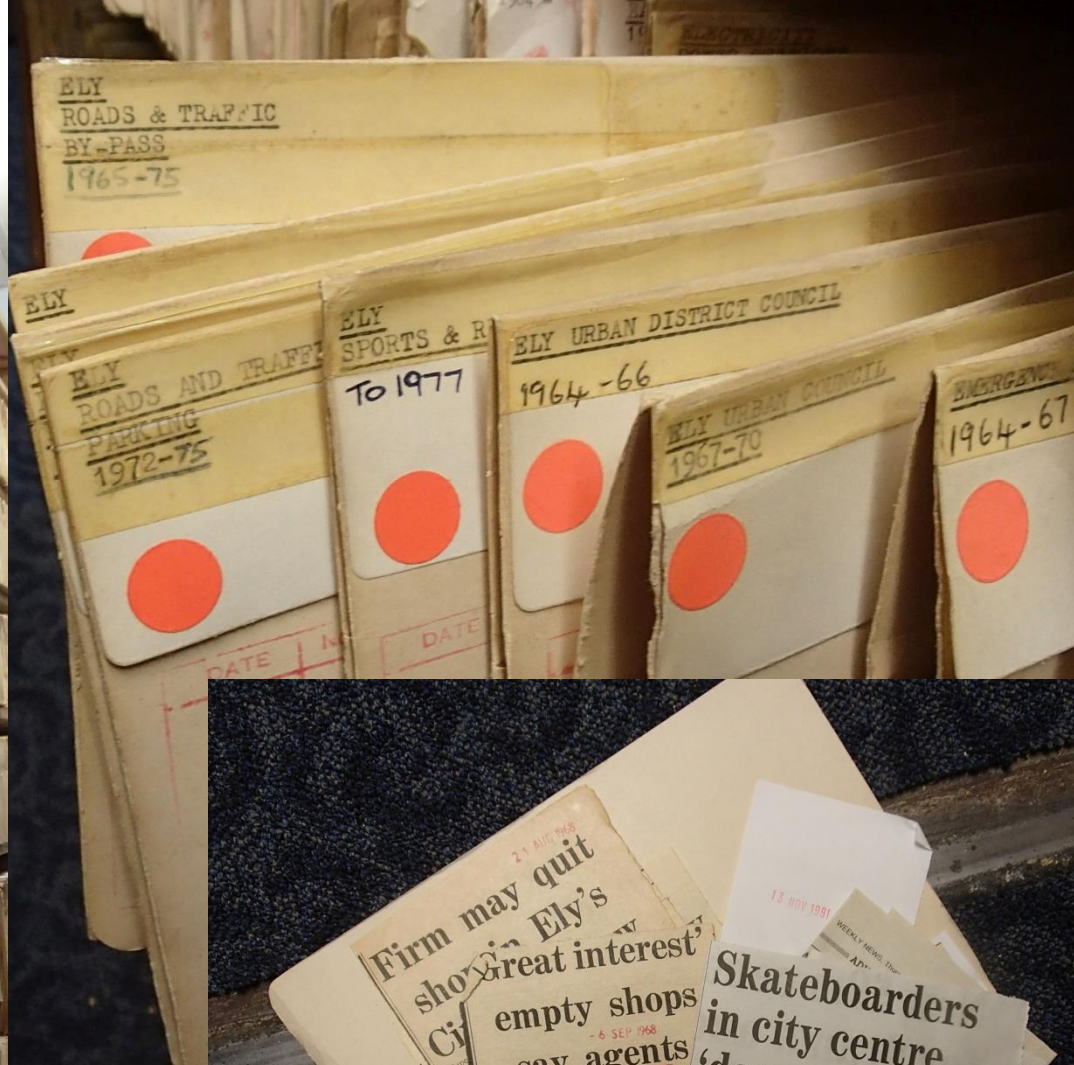
Fortunately I had copied a few of the indexes including Stretham and the villages around Ely

Cricket & football pitches overlap. 3-9-75 5g LOC ✓
Berry Close - insurance given for play area. 4-9-75 11e LOC ✓
Aerial Pic. 3-10-75 17eX ✓ Mp 1220
Bury Close to Ely Rd. footpath to be partly made up. 9-10-75 10g N ✓
Wilburton Rd - Par C1 to ask for pedestrian crossing. 5-11-75 11g N ✓
Cricket club to be charged £2 for hiring playing field. 6-11-75 12f N ✓
Parish rate raised by 19%. 6-11-75 13b N ✓
Top St - E. Cambs DC to pay extra - increased costs of electric heating
10-12-75 10d N ✓
Pic of Engine house in dying sun 13.12.75 5 Pic ✓
Berry Bridge - plg perm refused for boat moorings & slip way. 19-1-76
9e (8e N)
Green End - plan for 20 hses meets w four objections. 20-1-76 11e N ✓
Top St - premises of Routledge & Goad Ltd plan for two grain silos gran
20-1-76 10e N ✓
Green End Rd - 2 separate plans - cl want integrated scheme 20.2.76 ✓

High St residents upset by noise by scooter boys 13.1.72. 18.
Estate of 42 houses may still be built in village - but plans d
20.1.72. 11.b. ✓
Annual parish mtg to be held March 20th 2.2.72. 17.a.X ✓
Baptist Church upset by noise made by vehicles using depot 3.2.
" " Director replies to critics 4-2-72. 23.d. (22d X) ✓ 11aX
L. A. Jackson lose appeal to extend engineering depot in village
11.3.72. 9.b. ✓
Housing to be deferred until village plan published 19.4.72.
Play area may be included in plan for new school 22.4.72. 11
County planning team to visit village for work on village pl
22.4.72. 11.a.X ✓
Feat Sundat at Stretham 22.5.72. 13bX ✓
7.6.72. 16.a. ✓

The Cambridge News Librarians maintained thousands of cuttings files from the 1960s to the end of the century.





They covered all aspects of Cambridge and its county. Many duplicated the files maintained by the Cambridgeshire Collection. These were not needed and were scheduled to be dumped. Instead they were given to me. I have passed them to the Cambridge Independent who have promised to make them accessible to researchers



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (56)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (57)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (58)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (59)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (60)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (61)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (62)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (63)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (64)



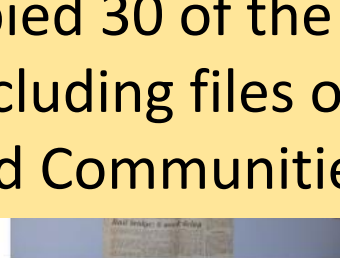
Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (65)



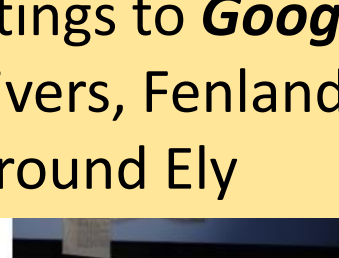
Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (66)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (67)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (68)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (69)



Floods General 1968 Oct-Dec (70)

I have copied 30 of the cuttings to **Google Photos** including files on Rivers, Fenland, Floods and Communities around Ely





For over 20 years I compiled a daily *Looking Back* column in the Cambridge News recording some of the interesting stories published 25, 50, 75 and 100 years before

22 | May 12, 2014 | cambridge-news.co.uk | Cambridge News

LOOKING BACK

By MIKE PETTY

Tourists spending £165m in city

FROM THE NEWS 1984
Tourists contributed £165 million to Cambridge's economy last year but just £157,000 was spent on welcoming them.

The council cash went on running the tourism office in Wheeler Street, which has 12 full-time staff and another dozen workers in the summer.

The colleges are a major attraction but university life would be seriously disrupted if they were allowed to close.

Uncontrolled. Most colleges close during exams but are anxious not to close their gates unnecessarily.

Remembering Wembley days

FROM THE NEWS 1984
Memories will flood back to Giffon man, Vic Watson, when his old team West Ham play in a Wembley Cup Final.

The last time they were there was in 1923 and Vic, then 25, was leading the attack as Centre-Forward.

They lost 2-0 to Bolton in a game that became known as the 'White Horse Final'.

Vic was with the club for 16 years and won seven England caps. After retirement he became club coach at Cambridge Town for nearly 20 years until they turned professional.

'Press must be true and faithful'

FROM THE NEWS 1939
If war came some kind of press censorship would be inevitable.

Local landmarks were far from run of the mill

Memories

By MIKE PETTY

LAST weekend, windmill enthusiasts celebrated the remaining examples of the structures which have been so important a feature of the landscape for centuries.

Unavoidably many have now gone: "Windmills are disappearing so fast that in many parts of the country they are a forgotten race. Some day antiquarians will be examining and digging in mounds, having quite forgotten that they were the mounds of old windmills made to raise them a little above the surrounding land," Henry Hughes told members of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society in November 1928.

Together with JH Bullock and Rex Wallis he set about making a record of the windmills existing throughout Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. It was not an encouraging task for such enthusiasts. They found the oldest mill at Bourne had been out of commission for six years, its sails having been smashed in a gale in 1925. Finishing its working life. But fears it would be lost were dispelled when it was acquired by the Cambridge Preservation Society who have continued to care for it.

In Cambridge the windmill that had given Mill Road its name had long gone and the mill at Long Road Trumpington had also disappeared. Miss Moore, the daughter of the last miller, told them it had been built in 1812 and stopped working in the spring of 1887. Photographer R.L. Lord snapped it in its prime. But French's Mill off Victoria Road was still standing in 1939.

It was replaced in 1935 by a post mill from Elingworth which Anthony Harding the Squire of Audley had moved plank by plank to its present site. Such restoration was expensive and needed specialist skills such as that of the Soham firm of Harts millwrights whose work was photographed by the antiquarians.

In 1932 Philippa Bunell bought a cottage, granary and 20 acres of land together with the windmill at West Whitting for £100. High and isolated, she found it a little paradise - and promptly left to study in Paris. She returned in 1934 when she wrote plays and learned about planting and pruning. All the while the windmill was watching her with its broken sails, cap all out, windows rotten and rain come in. It was an

see the mill, sitting contentedly on rustic tables in the orchard. After two seasons however she closed the business as the mill was restored. It was not the end of the story; she wrote a play, *The Wind and the Mill*, which was performed by the Festival Theatre Company in the fields around the windmill in June 1935.

As well as corn mills, drainage mills were once a very familiar sight in the fens, and the Cambridge Antiquarians took a picture of a group of small mills near Ely in 1914. There was a large mill at Soham mere, belonging to the Cambridgeshire County Council with the old type of tail beam and old types of tail. "Long may they be preserved by the bodies that own them," Hughes exhorted.

Sails if it was not to be. By 1947 the

later another drainage mill, much younger, much less impressive and in a much worse state, was re-built and erected just next door at Micken Fen, where it is laughed at the last of the fenland wind drainage mills.

The photographs taken by R.H. Lord (1888).

SAILING AWAY: Above left, Maudslays windmill painted by William Mathewson c1907. Top: French's Mill, Victoria Road with sails, 1912. Above: Mill at Long Road Trumpington, photographed by R.H. Lord (1888).



- ***The Cambridgeshire Scrapbook 1897-1990*** lists the stories in one chronological sequence

It records thousands of otherwise forgotten facts from the period 1897-1990 and can be searched by name and place



It is like
Enid
Porter's
Notebooks
– but on
your laptop

<https://archive.org/details/a-cambridgeshire-scrapbook-1897-1990-by-mike-petty-july-2020>



1916 07 12

Big Push Casualties. There was a long list of casualties or local men as result of the Big Push, which is now progressing so satisfactorily. Large numbers of wounded have arrived at the First Eastern Hospital—as many as 460 reached Cambridge in two days—and a number of medical officers have left the hospital for service at a daughter hospital in Egypt 16 07 12 CIP

1916 07 19

100th ambulance train arrives – 16 07 19a

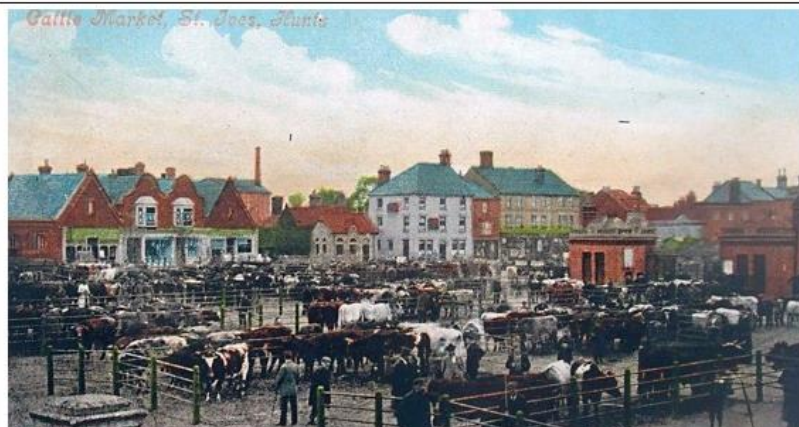
Cambridgeshire men who have fought and fell: photos of: Swift, Ingle, Hatterseley, Pryor, Bendall, Willis, Marsh, Dockerill, Rose, Johnson, Newman, Pearman, Richmond, Huyler, Renshaw, Goody, Steam, Ellis, Chapman, Robinson, Barber, White, Benstead, Richmond, Ellis, Cousins, Lack, Smart, Monk, Foreman, King, Gifford – 16 07 19c [note: there are a series of photographs of casualties; I have listed names on the Cambridge Chronicle 1916 indexes]

Tribunal includes Gas Company; H.J. Gray men on war work 16 07 19b

Another Heavy List Of Casualties. Many additional casualties - the price which must be paid for all great victories - among Cambs. men at the Front, has come to hand during the past week. Mingled, however, with the expression of deep sympathy with the relatives of those who have fallen and the earnest hope for the recovery of the wounded, is a feeling of great pride in our gallant county lads and their valiant conduct in the Great Push. Fearlessly "and in a storm of shell, rifle bullets and machine gun bullets" to use the words of one of them - the lads of Cambridgeshire leaped out of their trenches when the word was given in the early hours of the morning of July 1. Many fell, but "most of the boys themselves. Town and county have cause to be proud of the morning. And before then, too, and since. In addition her casualties include five killed in action (including liers, only surviving son of Lord St. Davids), six died of ing, including Capt. G. W. Deighton, son of Dr. 40 wounded. CIP

Cambridgeshire Ghosts Scrapbook 1897 to 1990:

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies reported in Cambridge Newspapers



Fen Skating Scrapbook – Mike Petty

St Ives Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies reported in Cambridge New summarised by

Mike Petty

Trumpington Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty



PAGET ROAD AND BYRONS SQUARE, TRUMPINGTON

Fen Skating Scrapbook 1897-1989

compiled by

Mike Petty



A compendium of cuttings relating to Cambridge, Ely, Huntingdon, Newmarket, Royston and the surrounding villages



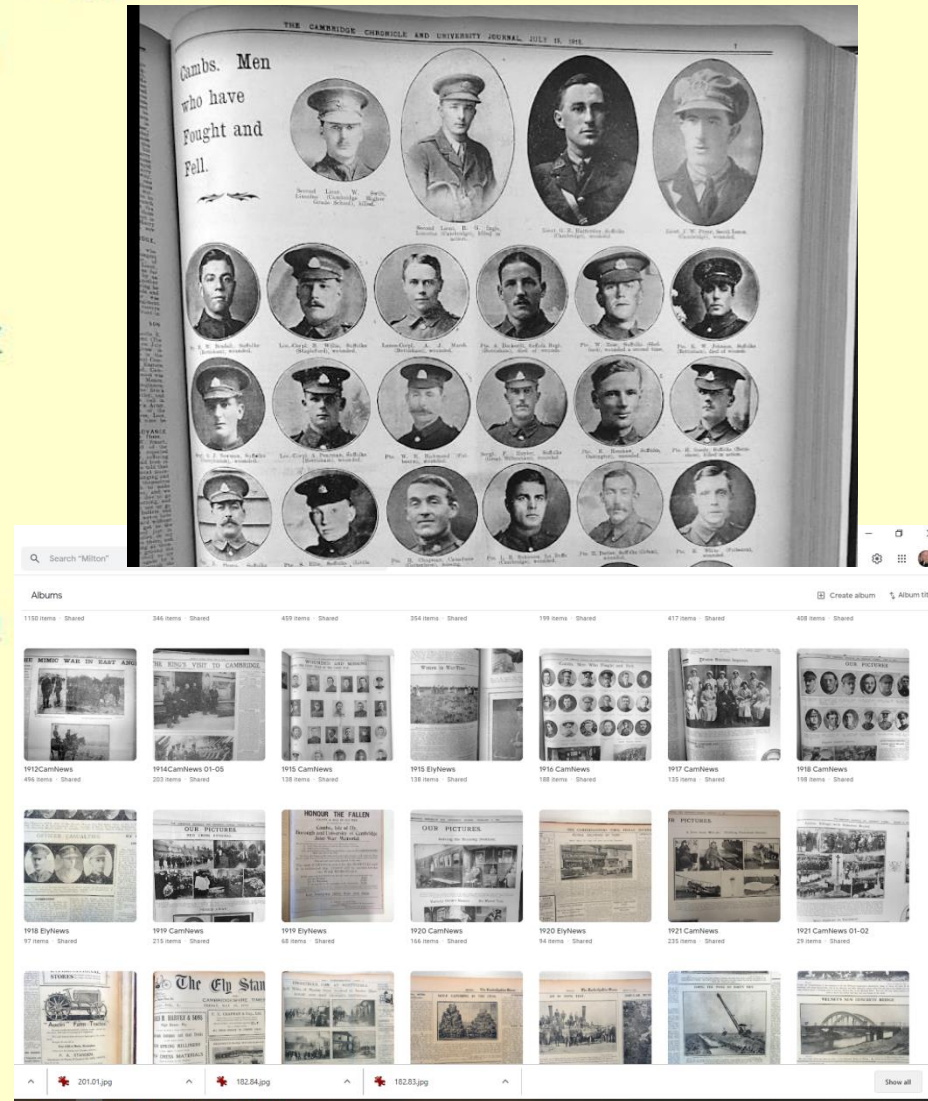
I have produced 'Mini-Scrapbooks' for scores of communities and numerous topics including railways, aircraft, war

<https://archive.org/details/MikesOnlineResources>

Many entries are followed by a date code, YY-MM-DD.
There are copies of hundreds of the actual articles in files on Google Photos.

Cambridge Newspapers copied on Google Photos

1905-07 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qQeTRHFZ5bLcPBRq9>
1910-13 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/VG35idug3JLiuoNS7>
1915 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/kU75VKExfcqXvmSM9>
1916 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/zbvEA51wNdUuReJe6>
1917 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/N8hG7b8mtDLnQgg9>
1918 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZJPqce6g6XsXcU7C8>
1919 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/5d5etstfNGhgSCUD9>
1920 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/wYx1hs7pEdKgJDES6>
1930-39 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/HdHm2pPD3WQ4uop57>
1940 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NWAGudgZQxvVQ8oZA>
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1943 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/6ABpSgP4V8C5fhQYA>
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1945 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Bkqzr3Eqt6jr4FZm6>
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1955-59 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/KT4m35GrCKwRgaCG9>
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1970 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/jaDdF4b4HJnQ3Qn77>
1971 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/2ssMjDkJKcp5KZP4A>
1972 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/iPAh76skczQ8j1xEx9>
1980-89 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GJt5f8x4S2c3Rk9a8>
1990 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/YfJdJ6u15irw9aeb9>



When compiling the 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' I took digital copies of thousands of the original articles as published in the paper from 1905.

These are online on Google Photos.

You can click through stories appearing throughout the two World Wars as well as the depression of the 1930s, the 'forgotten 50s', 'swinging 60s' and through to 1990.

Mike Petty

Cambridge: a Chronicle 1888-1990



Cambridge is comprised of a multitude of elements - Market, Colleges, University, Transport, Shops ... seemingly unchanged

Cambridge 1888-1988: a Chronicle of an English University City is a 4,000-page record of 100 aspects of Cambridge covering topics including planning, transport, women, health etc. etc.

<https://archive.org/details/cambridge-1888-1990-a-chronicle.-2021>

Charles Henry Cooper
compiler of *Annals of
Cambridge*



It supplements the *Annals of Cambridge*, compiled by Charles Henry Cooper which covers events from the earliest time to 1856. Work is in progress to fill the gap to 1888

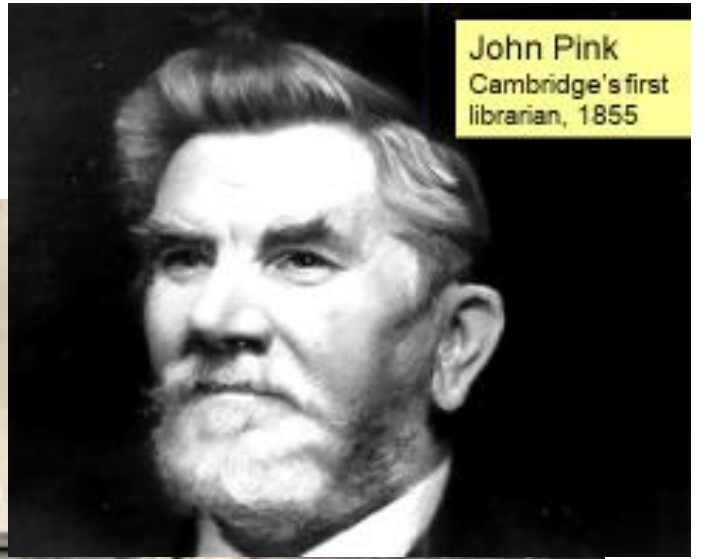


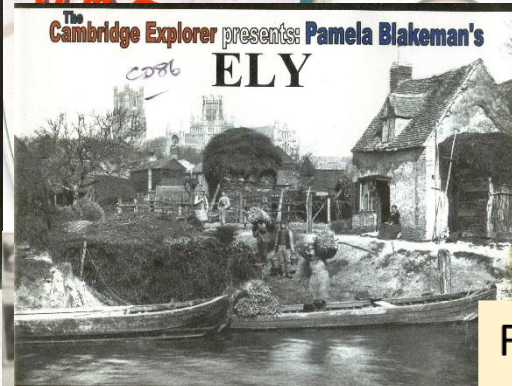
Charles Henry Cooper
compiler of *Annals of
Cambridge*



The ***Chronicle*** reflects the ethos of the founders of the Cambridgeshire Collection: to record all aspects of local life and to share it freely with all.

John Pink
Cambridge's first
librarian, 1855





For more than 50 years I have been privileged to meet and been able to assist thousands of folk to discover Cambridgeshire 'history' and help them share it with others





For thirteen years weekly ***'Fenland History on Friday'*** meetings between October and May heard presentations from speakers who ranged from University Academics up to Fenmen giving their first public talks. There were visits to fenland farms, the University Isaac Newton Institute, Faculty Museums and the Cambridgeshire Collection.



Mike Petty's Collection





For more than 50 years I have tried to share an awareness of that wonderful resource, travelling to virtually every parish and speaking to up to four groups a week,

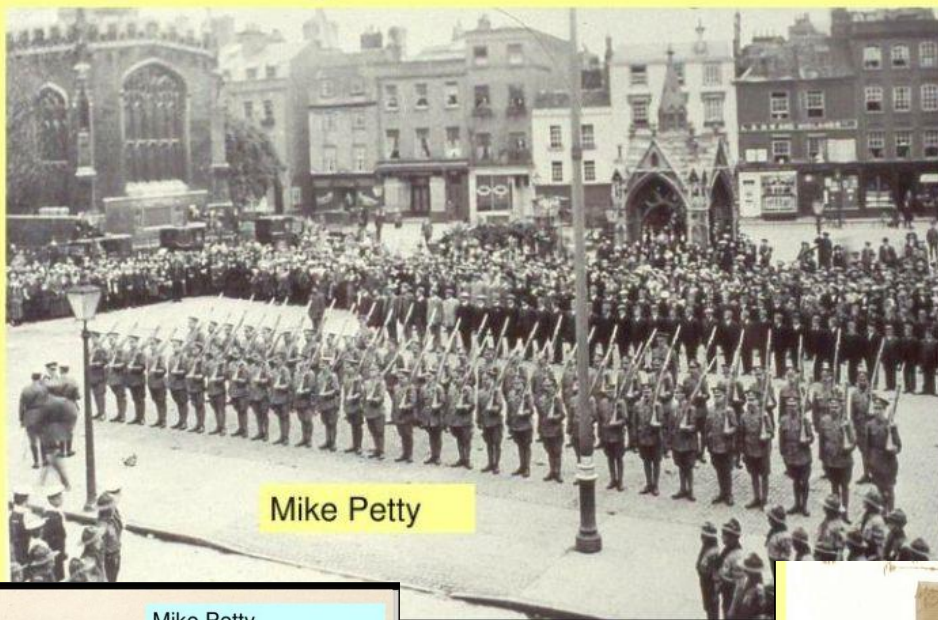


In 1986 I was even invited to give the **Enid Porter Memorial Lecture**





Cambridge at War 1914-1918



Mike Petty



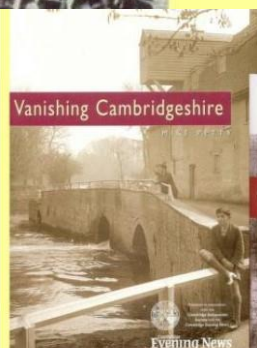
These days meetings are mainly digital

Mike Petty
Fen Floods 1947



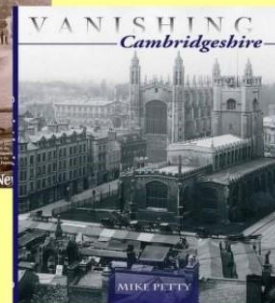
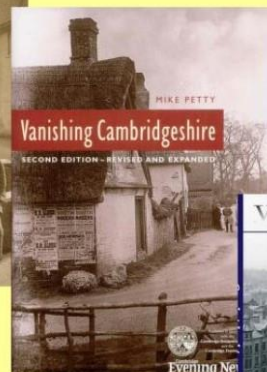
3

Presentations
are shared via
YouTube or
Internet
Archive

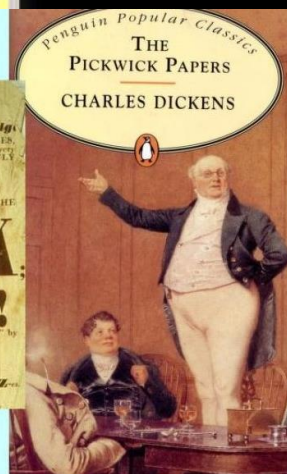
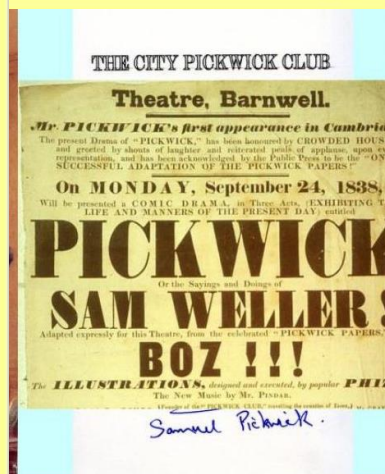


The Cambridge
Antiquarian
Society's
photographs.

Mike Petty



5



(6 of 63)

356 RESULTS SORT BY RELEVANCE VIEWS TITLE DATE ARCHIVED CREATOR

The Internet enables us to seek and share information online

Media Type

texts 356

Availability

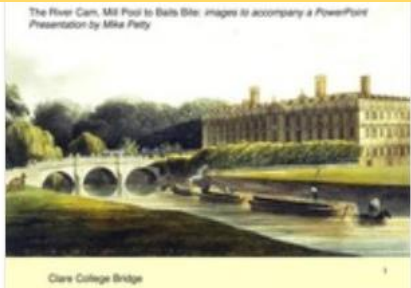
Year

- 2021 5
- 2020 10
- 2019 12
- 2018 175
- 2017 84
- 2016 54

More

Topics & Subjects


- Cambridge 163
- Cambridgeshire 118
- Ely 9



River Cam Mill Pool To Baits Bite By Mike Petty by Mike Petty



Pickwick Cambridge Scrapbook by Mike Petty



Whitney Scrapbook 1897 to 1990



Cambridge 1880-1900 Scrapbook by Mike Petty



Toft Scrapbook 1897 to 1990



Whitney Scrapbook 1897 to 1990



Toft Scrapbook 1897 to 1990



Whitney Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Though Libraries have been cut back Mike Petty's files on **Internet Archive** were consulted 144,439 times to 20 July 2021 with over 70,000 users during 'lock-down'

<https://archive.org/details/MikesOnlineResources>

Fenland History on Facebook is a group devoted to Cambridge and the whole of the County – not just the Flat Black bit



Fenland History on Facebook

Public group · 8.3K members

About Discussion Mentorship Announcements Rooms Topics more ▾

Each day posts are seen by 12,000 people, most of them in north Cambridgeshire.

They have a wealth of knowledge they are delighted to share

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1026849820769556/>

Cambridge: a Chronicle on Facebook

Public group · 871 members



Stretham & Grunty Fen on Facebook to 2000

Public group · 1.1K members

You are most welcome seek and share your information with us.



Live video



Photo/Video



Room

Announcements



Mike Petty

8 July 2020 · 🌐

Cambridgeshire Scrapbook ...



Fenland History on Facebook is a group hosted by Mike Petty that shares and see about the Cambridgeshire fens, p

... See more

Public

Anyone can see who's in the group and their post.

Visible

Anyone can find this group.

Ely, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom

General

Recent media



Rebecca Moya

Requested 6 minutes ago

1,054 friends · 2 mutual friends · 40 friends in group

6 groups in common · 82 other groups

Joined Facebook 13 years ago

Lives in Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

Went to Cromwell Community College



Hasn't answered membership questions



Bảo Long Lê Nguyễn

Requested 4 hours ago

189 groups

Joined Facebook 5 years ago

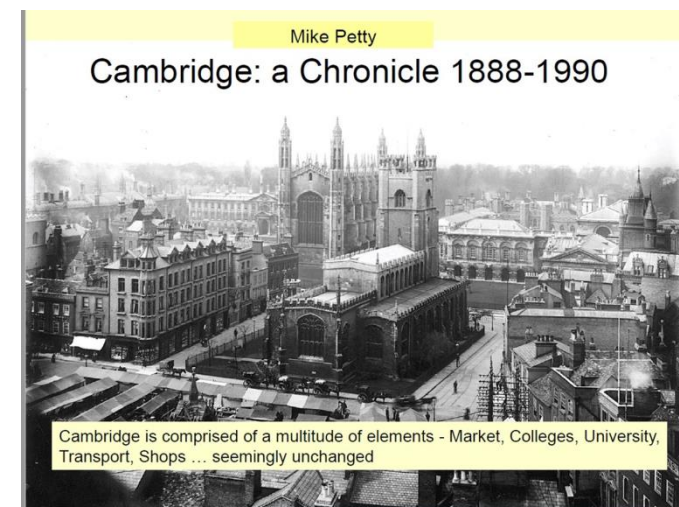
Lives in Binh Phuoc, Vietnam

Người bán hàng at Nhật bản auto & tractor



Tell me, what is your interest in Fenland?

ok

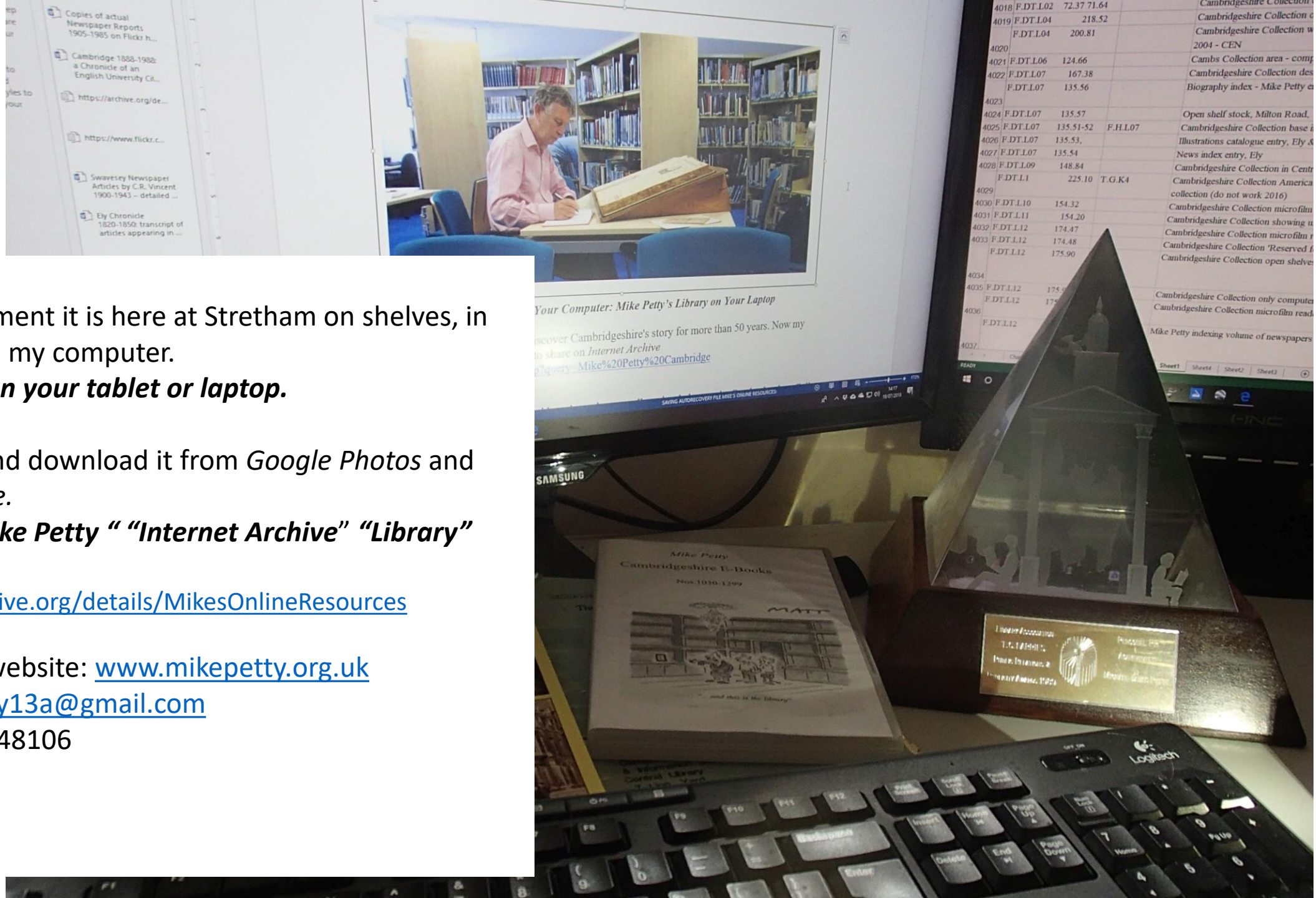


History shows that physical Libraries, like mine, will be lost.

The material that I have compiled at Stretham is just a fraction of what is already in the Cambridgeshire Collection. It is not wanted by Cambridgeshire Archives.

Cambridge University Library has offered some of it a home – perhaps in its store on the old Witchford airfield.

William Cole, the great historian, said 'To give my manuscripts to King's College would be to throw them into a horse pond'. The Stretham pond has been filled in.



But for the moment it is here at Stretham on shelves, in drawers and on my computer.

It is also here on your tablet or laptop.

You can read and download it from *Google Photos* and *Internet Archive*.

Just search “**Mike Petty**” “**Internet Archive**” “**Library**”
Or

Click <https://archive.org/details/MikesOnlineResources>

Check out my website: www.mikepetty.org.uk

email mikepetty13a@gmail.com

phone 01353 648106

Or just ask



I will continue to explore aspects of my home community and still hope to find postcards that have eluded me over the last 70+ years.

Mike Petty

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